THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BHAGEY GOBARDHAN): (a) to (c) The estimates of financial resources for the Eighth Plan are yet to be finalised.

(d) and (e) The estimate of resources for the plan will take over all note of the likely revenues and anticipated expenditure under various heads.

Research of space power generation

89. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Space Power Generation Research has been conducted by an Engineer of the Nuclear Power Corporation of India to extract power from vacuum created for this purpose;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

(c) what encouragement has been given to the said engineer for future research;

(d) whether Government have started any specialised research projects on space power generation in the country;

(e) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(f) what is the manner in which Government propose to develop Space Power Generation research in India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) to (c) Shri P. Tiwari, Chief Project Engineer of Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited claims that energy can be generated from vacuum. Based on this he has developed a machine which he calls a Space Power Generator which operates in the region of 10-15 KWS.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Department of Space (DOS) has been keeping abreast with the developments made internationally for generation of power from Space. However, even internationally, in view of complex technologies involved and their associated uncertainties, no major plan of development has been taken up.

Teaching of Space Science and Technology in Universities

90. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Space Science and Technology is not being taught at Degree level or post graduate level in the Indian Universities;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government could consider to introduce a course at Degree level on Space Science and Technology in all Indian Universities;

(d) if so, what would be the scheduled programme of such a new course of study; and

(e) if answer to part (a) be in negative, what are the details of the institutions / Universities teaching Space Science and Technology in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA): (a) to (e) According to information furnished by University Grants Commission, space science is a multi-disciplinary subject which includes studies on Physics, Mathematics, Atmospheric Science, Rocketry, Astronomy, Astrophysics, etc Birla Institute of Technology and Science, Pilani offers M.E. programmes in Space Engineering, Rocketry